THE CAFÉ TERRACE AND ITS GODDESSES

#121 Sachiko's Happiness

MOTH-ER!

I TOLD YOU TO LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE VISITING!

EX-CUSE ME!

WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT BEFORE...?

!!

IGNORE!

OH...

OKAY...

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

MOTHER ...!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, RURI-SAN.

IT SEEMS THAT YOUR OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.

I'VE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH BOTHER...

...ALL THIS TIME...

FIDGET

IT'S OKAY, NO NEED TO GET UP ON MY ACCOUNT.

YOU'LL HINDER YOUR RE-COVERY.

FIDGET

...

YES... I'M SORRY.

...

HOW-EVER...

I AM GLAD THAT YOU'VE DECIDED TO START OVER.

WELL... THAT'S BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU AS A COUPLE, ISN'T IT?

I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING.

NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO...

...SEE MY LOVELY GRAND-DAUGHTER AGAIN.

REALLY?! MOM TOLD ME IT WAS NO GOOD!!

I WATCHED THAT DRAMA YOU WERE IN, YOU KNOW?

YOU DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF PLAYING DEAD! I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS FROM MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.

NGH...

GRR...

SEE?

BUT YOU STILL HAVE A WAY TO GO.

I COULD SEE YOUR ARTERIES MOVING A LITTLE.

WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING A CORPSE, EVEN YOUR PULSE MUST STOP, OKAY?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT, GRAND-MA?!

THAT'D MAKE ME DIE FOR REAL!

HUH ...?

IS THAT SO?

EXCUSE ME...

MAY I TALK TO YOU NOW?

...WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

WHEN YOU SAID THAT I WAS THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO PICK A FIGHT WITH SHIGEHISA FUWA...

WHY, NOTHING... I MEANT EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS FROM KAZUYUKI. HE TOLD ME THAT MAN HAD BEEN GIVING YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.

...

I SEE...

I WAS TALKING ABOUT IT WITH MY MOTHER.

RIGHT... SORRY, HAYATO-KUN.

RIHO TOLD ME THAT YOUR SHOP HAD A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES.

IF SACCHAN KNEW ABOUT ALL OF THIS...

...SHE'D BE SO UPSET.

ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO...

...I MET YOUR GRAND-MOTHER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES.

WHAT ...?

Familia
CAFÉ TERRACE

I HAPPENED TO BE ON LOCATION AT MIURA BEACH FOR A TRAVEL SHOW...

WHEN I CAME UPON A COFFEE SHOP CALLED FAMILIA.

I THOUGHT IT WAS MERELY A COMMON NAME FOR SUCH PLACES, BUT I WAS CURIOUS, SO I WENT THERE A FEW DAYS LATER AND...

Familia

Familia
CAFÉ TERRACE

WELCOME!

CREEEAK

ガ

WAIT...

SACCHAN, IS THAT YOU?

...

SHE TOLD ME SO MANY THINGS...

THAT SHE LOST HER SON IN AN ACCIDENT, AND HAD TAKEN IN HER GRAND-SON.

THAT TO SUPPORT THE CHILD, SHE HAD BORROWED MONEY FROM FUWA TO OPEN HER OWN SHOP.

AND THAT HE WAS CHARGING HER RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS OF INTEREST ON SAID MONEY...

HE SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE, SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO LEND ME MONEY TO APOLOGIZE FOR HIS PAST ACTIONS AND TO THANK ME FOR LOOKING OUT FOR HIM.

IT SEEMS THAT HE HEARD FROM SOMEWHERE THAT I WAS STRUGGLING FOR MONEY.

WELL, IT'S ALSO MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT READING THE CONTRACT CAREFULLY.

HE WAS TRYING TO DECEIVE YOU FROM THE START!

THAT MAN DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE DECENT BONE IN HIS BODY!

...

MY GRAND-SON, HAYA-TO...

...HE'S SUCH A KIND BOY.

BUT YOU'VE ALREADY PAID ALL THE MONEY BACK THANKS TO THAT APPREN-TICE OF YOURS, HAVEN'T YOU?

NOW YOU CAN STAND UP TO THAT MAN, WHATEVER HE SAYS!

WHY NOT?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T, YUMIKO-SAN.

IF I DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES FUWA-SAN HATE ME...

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO TO HAYATO THEN?

IF I DIE, I'M CERTAIN THAT HE'LL DECIDE TO INHERIT THE CAFÉ.

IT'S OKAY.

BUT THAT MAN IS-

IF HE TELLS ME TO BEG ON MY KNEES, I'LL DO IT.

ALL TO PROTECT THAT CHILD.

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE... I'LL JUST HAVE TO FLATTER HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES.

BUT DESPITE OF ALL OF THAT...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S FEELINGS...

...OR HOW TERRIBLE THAT MAN CAN BE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...

EVEN AFTER EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED, YOU SHOULD JUST BOW YOUR HEAD AND APOLOGIZE TO HIM.

HE'S ALREADY AN OLD MAN.

IF YOU JUST PUT UP WITH HIM A LITTLE LONGER...

IF I COULD JUST BOW MY HEAD AND GET THIS ALL OVER WITH, I WOULD.

...I DIDN'T GO INTO THIS TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE WITH HIM.

THEN-

*Sign: Chiyoda Diner

...

AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WOULD DO TO FAMILIA THEN, EITHER.

BUT...

THAT'S WHY...

BUT EVEN I HAVE THINGS THAT I CANNOT FORGIVE.

IF I WERE TO ASK FOR HIS FORGIVENESS, HE WOULD ABSOLUTELY TRY TO STEAL CHIYODA DINER AND ITS LAND FROM ME.

IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THE PEOPLE WORKING THERE WOULD ALL HAVE TO LEAVE, TOO.

千代田食堂

P

IN

...IF I HAVE TO TAKE THE HEAT OF THE FIRE THAT RAINS DOWN UPON ME...

...I WILL DO IT, TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

YOU REALLY ARE JUST LIKE HIM.

THAT RECKLESS-NESS OF YOURS IS JUST LIKE MASAHIRO-SAN.

...

YES?

ABOUT THAT... I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

...THE ORIGINAL FAMILIA. WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

MY GRAND-FATHER'S CAFÉ...

FOR EXAM-PLE...

WERE THERE SOME KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PERHAPS FORCED MY GRANDFATHER TO CLOSE IT DOWN?

WH...

WHAT HAP-PENED TO IT...?

...!

...SERIOUSLY INJURING HIS RIGHT HAND?

WH...WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

DID SACCHAN SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?

NO...

AND...

WHENEVER I'VE MET ANY OF THE FORMER EMPLOYEES...

THEY'VE ACTED VERY STRANGELY FOR PEOPLE WHO JUST HAPPENED TO STOP WORKING THERE.

ALL OF THEM...

SO I WONDERED IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAD HAPPENED.

...SEEMED TO BE PAYING EXTRA ATTENTION TO MY RIGHT HAND.

IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, COULD YOU TELL ME, PLEASE?

ABOUT MY FAMILY...

WHAT HAPPENED?! YOUR ARM!! ARE YOU OKAY?!

THAT'S RIGHT.

...

IT'S YOUR FAMILY, AFTER ALL...

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

*Sign: Specialty coffee shop; Familia

THE CAFÉ TERRACE AND ITS GODDESSES

EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED...

...TO OUR SHOP THAT DAY.